

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 AID-05 PC-01

IO-10 OMB-01 CIEP-01 EB-07 /081 W

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O P 121202Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2292

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PINS PINT ET

SUBJECT: BG TEFERIBENTI PRESS CONFERENCE

DURING PRESS CONFERENCE OF 11 DECEMBER,

TEFERI BENTI, IN ENGLISH

RESPONSE TO QUESTION CONCERNING POSSIBLE TRIAL OF HIM, SAID FATE OF EX-EMPEROR WILL BE DECIDED BY ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE SINCE THE CRIMES HE COMMITTED WERE AGAINST THE PEOPLE. AMHARIC RESPONSE TO DAILY TELEGRAPH REPORTER'S QUESTION RE POSSIBLE ASYLUM FOR HIM IN UK SAID NOT POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS ASYLUM WHILE CHARGES PENDING, HOWEVER, QUOTE ... THE PEOPLE ARE ALREADY PREPARED TO JUDGE (HIM) ... UNQUOTE.

COMMENT. WE HAVE STRONG IMPRESSION FROM PRESS SOURCES HERE THAT THEY ARE INTERPRETING THESE EXCHANGES AS INDICATIVE OF HIM'S EARLY TRIAL. WE ARE NOT YET PREPARED TO ENDORSE SUCH AN

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INTERPRETATION AND CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE DECISION ON THE

EMPEROR'S FUTURE AND THE DISPOSITION OF HIS CASE REMAINS TO BE MADE. WE WOULD SPECULATE THAT IT WILL BE DEFERRED AS LONG AS POSSIBLE AND WILL EVENTUALLY BE TAKEN IN THE LIGHT OF THE NEEDS OF THE MOMENT. WE WOULD POINT OUT THAT THE LATE LG AMAN IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE (CF ADDIS 11430) LAST SEPTEMBER ALSO SAID THAT THE PEOPLE WOULD DETERMINE WHAT TO DO WITH THE EX-EMPEROR. ASKED WHETHER HAILE SELASSIE WOULD BE TRIED, AMAN ALSO SAID EVEN THEN THAT IT WOULD DEPEND ON THE FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE. WYMAN

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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
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